

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION**

DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES



**MONTHLY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1999**



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OVERVIEW

Tonnage at a Glance

FACILITY	Sept FY 00	FY 00 Total	Sept FY 99	Sept FY 98
Materials Recycling Facility ***	5,328 Tons	14,590 Tons	5,239 Tons	4,890 Tons
Brunswick Landfill Facility ****	12,078 Tons	39,394 Tons	12,214 Tons	13,539 Tons**
American Ash Recycling *****	3,164 Tons	9,156 Tons	N/A	N/A
Resource Recovery Facility	*39,730 Tons	*127,064Tons	35,567 Tons	36,833 Tons
Yard Trim Compost Facility	4,526 Tons	8,561 Tons	2,216 Tons	2,937 Tons

*RRF tonnages refers to tons burned (processed). Waste shipped from the Transfer Station but not burned is in the pit and is not included in the tonnage presented here. These tonnages are preliminary, with adjustments made in the December and June monthly reports.

**August FY98 tonnage went to Oaks Landfill. The out-of-county transportation and disposal contract started in late October 1997.

*** Incoming (not outgoing) – commingled, mixed paper, magazines, old newspaper.

Revenue Analysis and Systems Evaluation- The system benefit charges, included on tax bills, were due September 30th. We handled approximately 150 calls requesting information about the solid waste charges appearing on the County's consolidated tax bill. This seemed to be a slightly easier load than last year. We instituted new quality assurance procedures over residential billing record changes, conducted planned field audits of the information submitted on six-month hauler/collector reports, substantially completed work on the FY99 Recycling Calculation, reviewed MRF revenues and operating costs, and conducted research relating to possible adjustments to the MRF Access Fee. We also continued to work on Performance Indices, gathered data for FY99 Fiscal Health calculations, and began processing Levy Year 99 appeals.

Variable Rate- The second meeting of the Variable Rate Feasibility Study Task Force took place on September 2nd. The group reviewed information gathered about: 1) the actual incremental cost per ton for county solid waste program costs that vary with tonnage, and 2) pilot-versus-county average demographic data. The group discussed various means of structuring a variable rate program, and requested information about jurisdictions similar to Montgomery County, which rely substantially on a variable rate revenue. The third Task Force meeting took place on September 30th during which the group reviewed preliminary results of the jurisdiction survey, discussed alternate

variable rate methods and relative opportunities for recycling increases via these means, reviewed our existing related regulatory structure, and generated legal questions for follow-up.

**** - Transfer Station Monthly report (Nonprocessibles, DOT – type material Silver Spring tonnage and ash).

***** - Tonnage as reported from Ogden Martin Scales – Monthly report from Ogden Martin.

CITIZEN COMMITTEES

Facilities Implementation Group (FIG)- The first FIG meeting convened on September 28th. A facilitator conducted the discussion regarding the purpose and organization of the group. Primary objectives were identified. The 12 appointed members attended with 4 remaining seats available expected to be filled in October. The group will meet again in October.

Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan- SCS completed drafts of the Analysis of Facility Traffic and Transportation Demand Management Program in February, and they will be distributed for comment to FIG members. The groundwater monitoring base maps are complete, and monitoring of groundwater and well water continues. An outline of the traffic safety training for facility contractors will be distributed to FIG.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee- SWAC met on September 7th at the Executive Office Building. The committee was briefed on Household Hazardous Waste, Ecowise, the Solid Waste CIP Program and fire incidents at the Compost Facility and Transfer Station.

COLLECTIONS

Refuse- September's refuse collections were normal with no disruptions to the scheduled work.

Recycling- The Mixed Paper Recycling started in Area 8 with 20,000 homes on Monday September 20th.

Contractor Performance - During the month of September 1999, there were 11 complaints not resolved by the contractors and all were corrected by the county. The number of complaints received in September 1999 totaled 639. This represents a 1.84% reduction from September 1998, which had a total of 651 complaints.

The Customer Service Staff handled customer Service- for the month of September, over 12,572 incoming calls with over 270 follow-up calls (as a quality control check).

Volunteer Activities- During the month of September, Master Recycler/Composter program volunteers contributed 161 hours of service and reached approximately 8,500 residents. The volunteers handled 390 calls to the recycling hotline with additional 309 calls coming into the hotline answering machine. Household Hazardous Waste and Mixed Paper Recycling were the leading topics of discussion. The Volunteer activities included two household hazardous waste collections at Shady Grove and Germantown, with weekend festival functions at Poolesville, Olde Town Gaithersburg, and the Isaak Walton Conservation Day.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Drop-off Programs- The “Loading Dock” staffed an event to collect reusable building materials on Saturday, September 11th from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the “Don’t Dump. Donate” drop-off at the Transfer Station. The event collected 1.11 tons from 18 patrons.

Department of Environmental Protection's Home Composting and Source Reduction Activities- Several VermiLab training classes were held for teachers in the Montgomery County Public School System. Due to class size requirements and registration restrictions, additional classes will be held in October. All sessions are conducted at the Lathrop Smith Environmental Education Center utilizing the Compost Discovery Garden and Worm Garden at that site. Trainings to date have added 44 teachers and more than 1,200 students to the VermiLab in-classroom composting program. Many of the teachers involved expressed an interest in having Digger Worm attend school assemblies. Two schools have also inquired about becoming sites for Worm Gardens – large scale vermicomposting systems that will accept all of the fruit and vegetable scraps from the school cafeteria. Each Worm Garden is capable of accepting 5,000 pounds or more of food scraps and converting that material into compost to assist in developing school gardens.

Staff developed and placed a display advertisement for the “Don’t Dump. Donate” program, including logo development and a colorful program-specific graphic. The ad promoted a drop-off program, which took place on September 11th.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection- Two Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events were conducted in September; one at the Transfer Station which had 520 patrons, and the other at the Germantown Upcounty Center which had 397 patrons.

There were also about 20 “walk-in” citizens with HHW who came to the Transfer Station in September.

Small Quantity Generator (Ecowise) Program- One Ecowise event was held. Eight companies attended.

AIR PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Resource Recovery Facility- In September, the Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEM) indicated that Unit #2 and Unit #3 were operating until September 8th, when Unit #2 was brought offline and Unit #1 was brought online. Since then, Units #1 and #3 operated continuously until September 30th, when the CEM indicted that Unit #1 was brought offline in the early AM. The plant manager indicated that a fan motor had to be replaced. The repairs were completed in about ten hours and the unit was brought back online in the late afternoon. There were no other equipment malfunctions in September that effected plant operations or stack emissions.

Oaks Landfill Energy Recovery Facility- The Leachate Thermal Treatment System (LTTS) was under maintenance during the entire month of September. The steel shroud in the unit is planned for removal by the first week of October, and the refractory is to be installed by the 20th of October. The unit is expected to be back on line by the 25th of October. The contractor has begun negotiating with a Financing Company to obtain funds for implementing the electrical component of the project. The contractor has also received a communication from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) asking for copies of the County's contracts with Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) that are related to the construction of the gas collection system from 1992 to 1994 for Cells 1 and 2. The contractor expects a response from the IRS by the end of December regarding the tax credits. At that stage, the contractor will be able to make a decision on the financial viability of investing for the electrical component of the project.

Yard Trim Composting Facility- Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) transmitted to DSWS, a second draft of the Consent Agreement. DSWS reviewed the document and got it approved by the County Attorney's office for format and legal sufficiency, and transmitted it back to MDE. The document is expected to be finalized in October. In September, one wet sampling event and one dry sampling event were conducted under the One-year Water Quality Evaluation Program required by the Consent Agreement between MDE, the County and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES). The fieldwork will conclude in May and ENSR's findings will be available by July 2000. DSWS plans to meet with MDE in August 2000 to discuss further course of action.

Contractual Work- ENSR is continuing work on the air and non-air media tasks and epidemiological evaluation. A legal agreement required by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) was sent to the Agency for obtaining data for the Dickerson area residents for the epidemiological evaluation. A response from the Agency is awaited. The following reports prepared by ENSR are available for distribution to the Facilities Implementation Group (FIG): 1)The Winter 1999 Water Quality Sampling Program conducted at the Montgomery County Yard Trim Composting Facility (YTCF), 2)

Updated Dispersion and Deposition Modeling Analysis for the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), as required by Master Plan.

RECYCLING

Public Outreach- Work continues on a comprehensive outreach item, in the form of a Year 2000 calendar. This calendar will provide broad-based information on recycling, waste reduction, buying recycled products, and specific collection schedule changes to single-family households, multi-family property managers, and the coordinators of business recycling programs throughout the County. Work has commenced on a recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled newsletter, to be distributed to community and business leaders. Work continues on a comprehensive outreach campaign on recycling, set to begin on America Recycles Day, November 15th. Evaluation of the mixed paper recycling efforts in Area 2, and ways to increase participation has begun.

Planning for America Recycles Day events and activities began. Activities include: an open house at the recycling center on Sunday, November 14th; a Recycle Right Contest during the week of November 8-15th to recognize residents, employees, and organizations that are recycling correctly; and other activities. Coordination with COG and with other state jurisdictions on events and promotion of America Recycles Day continues.

The SORRT awareness campaign kicked off on Labor Day, September 6th. Response has been marked. Calls regarding business recycling and the SORRT Program have increased since the campaign began. The campaign includes a 30-second TV advertisement, two 60-second radio spots, transit advertisements and print advertisements.

Commercial Recycling and Waste Reduction- Site visits and on-site consultations continued to be provided during the month of September. Additional staff was added to increase on-site visits and promote public awareness. Staff continued to work with the public school system to reinvigorate its recycling program. The media campaign started September 6th and the public feed back was very positive. We received many requests for additional information and inquiries about starting a recycling program. Staff has located a site for an EPA sponsored "Buying Recycled" seminar, and sent out invitations to businesses, government agencies and the procurement department. This seminar is scheduled for November 9th.

Staff continues to develop additional information and materials for use by businesses and organizations in their recycling programs. Work continues with all County agencies.

Multi-Family Recycling- The new video and the new Property Managers Guide were distributed to all multi-family properties. Staff has started a bin study, to test the

effectiveness of bin distribution to multi-family residents. Distribution of the new posters continues, which are laminated to protect them from the effects from outdoor use. This represents an improved service to customers and also a cost-saving measure to the County in the long run. It is hoped that fewer additional posters will need to be produced in the future. Staff is also planning several community events with the Recycle Mobile. The Recycle Mobile has proven to be a very valuable tool in presenting recycling to our citizens.

Mixed Paper Recycling- The mixed paper collection program in service area #8 (20,000 households in Olney) began in late September. The contractor Office Paper Systems received necessary financing and was issued a notice to proceed for construction of its processing facility. The schedule for completion was fixed at June 22, 2000. Work continues on related modifications to the County's Material Recycling Facility.

FACILITY ACTIVITIES

Yard Trim Compost Facility- Phase I of the pilot for tubgrinding of screening fines is in progress but there was no site activity in September. The pilot allows for grinding of material except for the storm debris sent to the facility. Additional approval by Sugarloaf is necessary to grind that material. Grass arrived at the facility in higher than normal tonnage for this time of year due to the excessive rain. Quick processing of material was top priority of the MES on-site staff in order to minimize odors.

Windrows continue to be irrigated with pond water to increase moisture content to reduce the threat of fire. Round-the-clock inspections will drop back to spot checks every 12 hours beginning in October.

Bagging of Leafgro resumed at the Transfer Station with 6400 bags produced.

In September, 4,525 tons of grass was received for processing and 1067 cubic yards of Leafgro were sold.

Resource Recovery Facility- The Facility operated with two units the entire month, usually at 100% load to control refuse pit levels. During September, 39,730 tons of waste was processed at the Facility and 41,553 tons were delivered.

On September 1st, work at PEPCO affected the connection between PEPCO and the Facility, causing the main breaker to open and isolate the Facility from PEPCO. The Facility was synchronized and reconnected after the PEPCO work was completed. The disconnect resulted in a loss of 80 MWH and lost revenues of less than \$2000. On another occasion, PEPCO dispatched the Facility to a reduced load for approximately 1.7 hours, resulting in a loss of 37 MWH and lost revenues of less than \$1000.

On September 8th, Unit #1 was restarted following its extended outage due to low waste deliveries. On the same day Unit #2 was removed from service in anticipation of upcoming outage activities. On September 30th, Unit # 1 was removed from service for 9.8 hours to change the overfire air fan motor.

There were no Code Red days forecast in September.

The Facility sold 22,033 MWH during the month, for approximately \$690,000 in revenues.

CSX rail service continued to improve during the month. New train personnel have demonstrated dramatic improvements to the operations of the “refuse train.” Additional meetings are planned with CSX management to develop long-term resolutions to operating issues.

During September, 1,488 tons of grass was delivered to the compost site by the rail system.

Approximately 3,164 tons of ash was delivered to the American Ash Recycling, Inc. facility in York, PA for recycling.

There were no reportable air or water quality excursions during the month. Environmental Quality Resources, Inc., a County contractor, inspected the stormwater pond and outfall piping on September 30th. A report has been requested and is expected within one month. Mr. Steve Jenness started work as Ogden’s Environmental Engineer for the Facility. He is also assigned to the Lancaster, PA facility and will split his time between the two facilities accordingly.

New Continuous Emissions Monitoring (CEM) software was installed to complete the Y2K compliance upgrades. Software testing was performed and the final results will be reported in early October.

More than 50 people toured the Facility including visitors from Great Britain; China; Thailand and the County’s Department of Finance.

Materials Recovery Facility- Approximately 3,130 tons of old newspaper; 1,574 tons of commingled material; and 624 tons of mixed paper (from the new pilot program) were received and processed at the Materials Recovery Facility in September 1999. A second Mixed Paper Pilot program with approximately 20,000 homes began on September 20th.

Electrical modifications continued through the month.

Construction continues to increase mixed paper storage and handling at the MRF.

Town of Chevy Chase started collecting mixed paper that is being delivered to the County's facility.

Oaks Landfill- The contractor for the Phase II closure construction, Barbella Environmental Technology, Inc., has seeded and stabilized most of the approximately 30 acres of recently installed geomembrane, geotextile and soil cap. The adjacent berm slopes also have been stabilized. Barbella started work on a new subarea and completed several acres of base grade, bedding layer and geomembrane liner. Barbella is approximately 55% complete with the Phase II work.

Shipments of crushed glass from the MRF to the Oaks Landfill ceased at the end of September. There is now enough crushed glass on site for the completion of the gas collection system. Crushed glass is being used as a high permeability material placed around perforated pipes in the installation of the Phase I gas collection system.

Cherry Hill Construction, the contractor for the Phase I closure construction (about 68 acres on the western side of the landfill) completed installing geomembrane and geocomposite in the first two subareas of Phase I (about 28 acres) and continues placing the soil layer over the geocomposite. Heavy rains in September limited the amount of work that was completed. Cherry Hill is approximately 30% completed with the Phase I work.

Residential hook-ups to the new public waterline around the Oaks Landfill are almost complete. The few remaining punch list items remain.

Transfer Station- During September, Ogden Martin shipped via rail 43,476 tons of processible waste from the Transfer Station to the Resource Recovery Facility, 5,479 more tons than shipped in September, 1998. The difference between the 43,476 tons of processible waste shipped via rail and the 41,553 tons delivered to the RRF is because waste shipped on the last operating day of each month is not recorded at the RRF until the next operating day, which is the first of the successive month.

Litter was collected along Shady Grove Road from Route 355 to the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road.

Whalen and Purdy continued construction of the Nonprocessable Waste facility along with some of the Master Plan improvements. About half of the reinforced concrete work for the DOT Type Nonprocessable Waste facility is complete. The paving of the lower lot and the cut through road from the Public Unloading Facility to the Upper lot are about 50% complete.

Design work for additional Master Plan improvements is complete and will be bid in October.

New Landfill Site 2- The Site 2 Landfill project has been suspended since the successful start-up of the Out-of-County Waste Transportation and Disposal contract in

October, 1997. A formal suspension agreement among the County, parties requesting a contested case hearing for the refuse disposal permit, and the Maryland Department of the Environment has been executed by County and citizen representatives.

Site 2 Property Management- DFS is following maintenance schedules for the properties. A meeting was held with the tenant of the Draper property to review modifications of the lease. This is the last lease that requires modifications at this time. DFS has initiated work on renovating the Chiswell Farm property. A request to use the CIP funds for DFS to renovate the farmhouse through one of their contractors has been sent to the County Executive for approval. Discussions were initiated with the Red Wiggler Foundation (a non-profit organization assisting mentally challenged adults) to determine if there are projects on the Site 2 properties that can be performed by Red Wiggler members. Additional meetings are anticipated for early October.

Out-of-County Haul- During the month of September, about 8,373 tons of ash residue and 3,706 tons of nonprocessible waste were transported to the County's dedicated disposal cell at the Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. Landfill in Brunswick County, VA. 365 tons of dirt and rock were recycled at Clean Rock in Hagerstown, MD. In addition, 3,164 tons of ash residue was shipped to American Ash Recycling in York, PA to be recycled into aggregate.

Linden Farm Renovations- The project is substantially complete.

Phase I of the plantings to screen the Compost Facility from the Linden Farm is complete. The County and Sugarloaf will work with a landscape design firm to complete design of Phase II this fall.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Important Telephone Numbers

General information on solid waste- 240/777-6400

Customer Service- 240/777-6410

Recycling hotline- 301/590-0046 (Hours of operation: Mon. - Fri., 1:00 - 4:00 PM)

Transfer Station- 301/840-2370

Materials Recovery Facility- 301/417-1447 Maryland Environmental Service

Resource Recovery Facility- 301/349-5685 County Office
301/916-3031 Ogden Martin Systems of Montgomery

Yard Trim Compost Facility- 301/428-8185 Maryland Environmental Service

Internet for DSWs- www.dpwt.com, then click on Solid Waste Services

Note: All comments, questions, and suggestions on the contents of this report should be addressed to:

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SOLID WASTE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

TOPIC OR FACILITY	
Current Recycling Rate in Montgomery County	36%
Recycling Goal by 2000	50%
New Recycling Programs Scheduled for FY 00	Implementation of Residential Mixed Paper Collection, Scale-up through August 2000.
Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)	Guaranteed Capacity = 85% of 1800 on an annual basis (558,450 tons/yr).
Yard Trim Composting Facility (DCF)	Operations Limited to Receipt of 77,000 tons/year under Sugarloaf Settlement Agreement. FY 99 tons received - 60,196
# Residences receiving trash collection by County contractors	82,599 as of October, 1999
# Residences receiving collection of recyclables in blue bins and yard waste collection	195,404 as of October, 1999
Term of out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract with Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc.	June 19, 1997 through June 30, 2012 with an option for a five-year renewal. (Service started on October 20, 1997.)

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AAR	American Ash Recycling
BFI	Browning Ferris Industries
CEM	Continuous Emissions Monitoring
CIP	Capital Improvements Program
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
CSX	Chesapeake Systems
DFS	Division of Facilities and Services
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FIG	Facilities Implementation Group
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
LTTS	Leachate Thermal Treatment System
MDE	Maryland Department of Environment
MES	Maryland Environmental Service
MRF	Materials Resource Facility
PEPCO	Potomac Electric Power Company
RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
SORRT	Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
YTCF	Yard Trim Composting Facility